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### FORRY.

#### The Daughter's Request.

BY MRS. ASDY.

My father, thou hast not the tale denied—  
They say that, ere noon to-morrow,  
Thou wilt bring back a radiant and smiling bride  
To our lonely home of sorrow.  
I should wish the joy of thy coming bliss,  
But tears are my words suppressing;  
I think on my mother's dying kiss,  
And my mother's parting blessing.

Yet to-morrow I hope to hide my care,  
I will still my bosom's beating,  
And strive to give to thy chosen fair  
A kind and courteous greeting.  
She will heed me not in the joyous pride  
Of her pomp, and friends, and beauty:  
Ah! little need has a new-made bride  
Of a daughter's quiet duty.

Thou gavest her costly gowns, they say,  
When thy heart first fondly sought her;  
Dear father, on thy nuptial gift, I pray,  
Bestow on one weeping daughter.  
My eye even now, on the treasure falls,  
I covet and ask no other,  
It has hung for many years on our ancient walls—  
'Tis the portrait of my mother!

To-morrow, when all is in festive guise,  
And the guests our rooms are filling,  
The calm, meek gaze of those hazel eyes  
Might thy soul with grief be thrilling,  
And a gloom on thy marriage banquet cast,  
Sad thoughts of thy own giving,  
For fleeting twelve-month scarce has past,  
Since she mingled with the living.

If thy bride should weary or offend,  
That portrait might awaken feelings  
Of the love of thy fond departed friend,  
And its sweet and kind revelations;  
Of her mind's commanding force unchecked  
By feeble or selfish weakness,  
Of her speech, where dazzling intellect  
Was softened by Christian meekness.

Then, father, grant that at once to-night,  
Ere the bridal eve's intrusion,  
I remove this portrait from thy sight  
To my chamber's still seclusion;  
It will nerve me to-morrow's dawn to bear,  
I will beam on me protection,  
When I ask of Heaven, in my faltering prayer,  
To hallow thy new connexion.

Thou wilt waken, father, in pride and glee,  
To renew the tale thus broken,  
But naught on earth remains to me,  
Save this sad and silent token.  
The husband's may be few and brief,  
He may woo and win another,  
But the daughter clings in unchanging grief  
To the image of her mother!

### MISCELLANEOUS.

#### BATTLE OF PRINCETON.

#### Death of General Mercer.

Communicated for the National Intelligencer from the Court  
of Records and Private Memoirs of the Life and Char-  
acter of Washington.

The historical records of the War of the American  
Revolution are in error as respects the death  
of General Mercer, who fell at the battle of  
Princeton, January 3, 1777. We offer the hom-  
age of our veneration for the martyr's memory,  
by giving to his adopted country and the world,  
authentic particulars of the heroism and devotion  
that attended his fall.

It was immediately after the sharp conflict at  
the fence between the advanced guard of the Amer-  
ican army, led by General Mercer, and the British  
17th regiment, and the retreat of the Amer-  
icans through the orchard near to Clark's  
house, and barn, that General Mercer, while ex-  
erting himself to rally his broken troops, was  
brought to the ground by a blow from the butt of  
a musket. He was on foot at this time—the  
grey horse that he rode at the beginning of the  
action having been disabled by a ball in the fore  
leg. The British soldiers were not at first aware  
of the General's rank, for the morning being  
very cold, he wore a surtout over his uniform.  
So soon as they discovered that he was a General  
officer, they shouted that they had got the rebel  
General, and cried, "Call for quarters, you  
d—d rebel!" Mercer to the most undaunted  
courage united a quick and ardent temperance;  
he replied with indignation to his enemies, while  
their bayonets were at his bosom, that he de-  
sired not the name of rebel; and determining to  
die as he had lived, a true and honored soldier

of liberty, lounged with his sword at the nearest  
man. They then bayoneted him, and left him  
for dead.

Upon the retreat of the enemy, the wounded  
General was conveyed to Clark's house, immedi-  
ately adjoining the field of battle. The infor-  
mation that the Commander-in-Chief first re-  
ceived of the fall of his old companion in arms of  
the war of 1775, and beloved officer, was that he  
had expired under his numerous wounds; and it was  
not until the American army was in full march  
for Morristown that the Chief was undeceived,  
and learned, to his great gratification, that Mer-  
cer, though fearfully wounded, was yet alive. Up-  
on the first halt at Somerset Court-house Wash-  
ington despatched the late Major George Lewis,  
his nephew, and Captain of the Horse Guard,  
with a flag and a letter to Lord Cornwallis, re-  
questing that every possible attention might be  
shown the wounded General, and permission  
that young Lewis should remain with him to  
minister to his wants. To both requests his  
Lordship yielded a willing assent, and ordered  
his staff-surgeon to attend upon General Mercer.  
Upon an examination of the wounds, the British  
surgeon remarked that, although they were many  
and severe, he was disposed to believe that they  
would not prove dangerous. Mercer, bread to  
the profession of an army surgeon in Europe,  
said to young Lewis, "Raise up my right arm,  
George, and this gentleman will there discover  
the smallest of my wounds, but which will prove  
the most fatal. Yes, sir, that is a fellow that will  
soon do my business." He languished till the  
12th, and expired in the arms of Lewis, admired  
and lamented by the whole army. During the  
period that he languished on the couch of suffer-  
ing, he exonerated his enemies from the foul ac-  
cusation which they bore not only in 1777, but  
for half a century since, viz: Of their having  
bayoneted a General officer after he had sur-  
rendered his sword, and become a prisoner of war—  
declaring that he only relinquished his sword  
when his arm had become powerless to wield it.  
He paid the homage of his whole heart to the Com-  
mander-in-Chief, rejoiced with true soldierly pride  
in the triumphs of Trenton and Princeton, in  
both of which he had borne a conspicuous part,  
and offered up his fervent prayers for the final  
success of the cause of American Independence.  
Thus lived and died Hugh Mercer, a name  
that will forever be associated with momentous  
events in this history of the War of Revolution.  
When a grateful posterity shall bid the trophied  
memorial raise to the martyrs who sealed with  
their blood the character of an empire's liberties,  
there will not be wanting a monument to him  
brave Gen. Mercer.

We shall give a single anecdote of the subject  
of the foregoing memoir, to show of the pure and  
high-souled principles that actuated the patriot  
and soldiers of the days of our country's trial.  
Virginia at first organized two regiments for  
the common cause. When it was determined  
to raise a third, there were numerous applications  
for commissions; and these being mostly from  
men of fortune and family interest, there was  
scarcely an application for a rank less than a field  
officer. During the sitting of the House of Bur-  
gesses upon this important motion, a plain, but  
soldierly-looking individual handed up to the  
Speaker's chair a scrap of paper, on which was  
written, "Hugh Mercer will serve his adopted  
country and the cause of liberty in any rank or  
station to which he may be appointed."

This, from a veteran soldier bred in Europe in  
camp, the associate of Washington in the war  
of 1775, and known to stand high in his con-  
fidence and esteem, was all sufficient for a body  
of patriots and statesmen such as composed the  
Virginia House of Burgesses in the days of the  
Revolution. The appointment of Mercer to the  
command of the third Virginia regiment was car-  
ried instant.

It was while the Commander-in-Chief reined  
up his horse, upon approaching the spot in a  
plagued field where by the gallant Colonel  
Haskell mortally wounded, that he perceived some  
British soldiers supporting an officer, and upon  
inquiring his name and rank, was answered, Cap-  
tain Leslie. Doctor Benjamin Rush, who formed a  
part of the General's suite, earnestly asked, "A  
son of the Earl of Leven?" to which the soldiers  
replied in the affirmative. The Doctor then ad-  
dressed the General-in-chief: "I beg your excel-  
lency to permit this wounded officer to be placed  
under my special care, that I may return, in how-  
ever small a degree, a part of the obligations I  
owe to his worthy father for the many kindnesses  
received at his hands while I was a student in  
Edinburgh." The request was immediately grant-  
ed; but, alas! poor Leslie was soon "past all  
surgery." He died the same evening, after re-  
ceiving every possible kindness and attention,  
and was buried the next day at Pluckam with  
the honors of war; his soldiers, as they lowered  
his remains to the soldier's last rest, shedding  
tears over the grave of a much loved command-  
er.

The battle of Princeton, for the time it lasted  
and the numbers engaged, was the most fatal to  
our officers of any action during the whole of the  
Revolutionary war—the Americans losing one  
General, two Colonels, one Major, and three  
Captains, killed—while the marshal prowess of  
our enemy alone not with more brilliant lustre in  
any one of their combats during their long career  
of arms than did the courage and discipline of the  
17th British regiment on the 3d of January, 1777.  
Indeed, Washington himself, during the height  
of the conflict, pointed out this gallant corps to  
his officers, exclaiming, "See how those noble  
fellows fight! Ah! gentlemen, when shall we  
be able to keep an army long enough together to  
display a discipline equal to our enemies."

The regular troops that constituted the grand  
army at the close of the campaign of '76, were

the fragments of many regiments, worn down by  
constant and toilsome marches and suffering of  
every sort, in the depth of winter. The fine  
regiment of Smallwood, composed of the flower  
of the Maryland youth, and which, in the June  
preceding, marched into Philadelphia eleven  
hundred strong, was, on the 3d of January, re-  
duced to scarcely sixty men, and commanded by a  
captain.

In fact, the bulk of what was then called the  
grand army consisted of the Pennsylvania militia  
and volunteers, citizen soldiers who had left their  
comfortable homes at the call of their country,  
and were enduring the rigors of a winter cam-  
paign. On the morning of the battle of Prince-  
ton, they had been eighteen hours and a half  
harrassed by a long night's march. Was it  
then to be wondered at that they should have  
given way before the veteran bayonets of their  
fresh and well appointed foe?

The heroic devotion of Washington was not  
wanting in the exigencies of this memorable day.  
He was aware that his hour was come to redeem  
the pledge he had laid on the altar of his country  
when first he took up arms in her cause, to win  
her liberties or perish in the attempt. Defeat at  
Princeton would have amounted to the annihila-  
tion of America's last hope; for independent of  
the enemy's forces in front, Cornwallis, with the  
flower of the British army eight thousand strong,  
was already panting close on the rear. It was  
indeed the very crisis of the struggle. In the  
hurried and imposing events of little more than  
one short week, liberty endured her greatest ag-  
ony. What, then, is due to the fame and mem-  
ory of that sacred band who, with the muster of  
liberty at their head, braved the storm at this  
fatal crisis of their country's destiny?

The heroic devotion of Washington on the  
field of Princeton is matter of history. We have  
often enjoyed a touching reminiscence of that  
ever memorable event from the late Col. Fitz-  
gerald, who was aid to the chief, and who never  
related the story of his General's danger, and al-  
most miraculous preservation without adding to  
his tale the homage of a tear.

The aid-de-camp had been ordered to bring up  
the troops from the rear of the column, when the  
band under General Mercer became engaged.—  
Upon returning to the spot where he had left the  
Commander-in-chief, he was no longer there, and  
upon looking around, the aid discovered him en-  
deavoring to rally the line which had been thrown  
into disorder by a rapid onset of the foe. Wash-  
ington, after several ineffectual efforts to restore  
the fortunes of the fight, seemed to renounce his  
possession of his head to the enemy, and in the  
end it was a lost and irrevocable.

It was a lost and irrevocable. Such an appeal was not made in vain. The dis-  
comfited Americans rally on the instant, and  
formed into line; the enemy halted and dress  
their line: the American Chief is between the  
adverse posts, as though he had been placed  
there, a target for both. The arms of both lines  
are levelled. Can escape from death be possi-  
ble? Fitzgerald, horror-struck at the danger of  
his beloved commander, dropped the reins upon  
his horse's neck, and drew his hat over his face,  
that he might not see him die. It was the shout  
of victory. The aid-de-camp ventures to raise  
his eyes, and oh, glorious sight, the enemy are  
broken and flying, while drily amid glimpses of  
the smoke is seen the Chief, "alive, unhurt,  
and without a wound," waving his hat, and cheer-  
ing his comrades to the pursuit.

Col. Fitzgerald, celebrated as one of the finest  
horsemen in the American army, now dashed his  
reins in his charger's flanks, and, heedless of  
the dead and dying in his way, flew to the side  
of his Chief, exclaiming, "Think God! your  
excellency is safe," while the favorite aid, a gal-  
lant and warm hearted son of Erin, a man of  
thees and sinews, and "albeit unused to the  
melting mood," give loose to his feelings and wept  
like a child for joy.

Washington ever calm amid scenes of the great-  
est excitement, affectionately grasped the hand  
of his aid and friend, "in then ordered," "Aw, my  
dear Colonel, and bring up the troops—the day is  
our own!"

The following anecdote of Dr. Franklin is not  
generally known. Being in England in 1755,  
he was asked by a nobleman what would satisfy  
the Americans? He answered that it might be  
accomplished by a few reasons—thus:

- call your forces.
- store Castle William,
- pay the damages done to Boston,
- peal your unconstitutional acts,
- announce your pretensions to taxes,
- fund the duties extorted after this,
- quiere and
- ceive payment for the destroyed tea, with
- the voluntary grant of the colonies, and
- then
- joice in a happy
- conciliation.

A magistrate in Southwark was greatly puzzled,  
on Wednesday, with the following item in a  
bill, on which he was about to issue a summons:  
To stating one axe, 37 1-2 cents  
"How is this, sir?" said his worship, with honest  
indignation flashing in his countenance,  
"Dye charge a man three pence for stealing his  
axe?"

"I do that, sir," said the plaintiff submissively,  
"and worry reasonable it is, at that."  
"Reasonable—you villain! don't you know  
it will take you to the State's Prison?"  
"Bless my soul!" exclaimed the alarmed suitor,  
"never heard of such a thing. Do you call that  
just?"

"No—I call it earnest; and so you'll find it,

unless you give Mr. Robins his axe again instan-  
tly."

"Why I was done with it and giv it to him  
two weeks ago."  
"Then you may thank your stars he did not  
prosecute you."

"Prosecute me!—Lord love you, you, sir, it's  
I that ought to have sued him before, for he was  
werry inuicy, and wanted to sub-me off with a  
quarter and a tip."

"Put him out," said the justice to a constable,  
"he's the most bare faced rascal that ever I met  
with. Steals a man's axe and wants to be paid  
for it!"

The constable was something more of a busi-  
ness man than his worship;—he begged leave to  
inspect the accounts, and then cautiously hinted  
that his honor had mistaken the case. It was for  
returning the axe, i. e. putting steel on the edge of  
it, that the charge was made.

"Oh, ay—sure enough," said the squire, "see  
what it is to want education. Never make out  
another bill, Mr. Bellows, without a dictionary at  
your elbow."

From the "Flow of Silence."

### HYMN OF THE WALKERERS.

BY MISS S. C. EDGARTON.

Come to the wooded mountain!  
Come to the ruined tower!  
Come to the wildwood fountain!  
Come to the lonely bower!  
Wooded mountain,  
Ruined tower,  
Lonely bower—  
Out from builded temples driven,  
Here we praise the God of heaven.

God of the Christian, here we sit!  
Spirit of love divine,  
Thou with that love be near us,  
Here in thy sylvan shrine!  
Father, bear us  
Love divine!  
Be thou near us  
In our shrine!  
Here we scorn the flame and sword,  
Mighty in thy conquering word!

### REMARKABLE ANECDOTES OF DOGS.

The anecdotes given of dogs saving the lives  
of persons in danger of drowning, are so nume-  
rous as to be familiar to every person. "One can-  
not be too particular in this annual, without being  
true to the feelings of many of our readers, which  
are interested feelings, which we are accustomed to  
appreciate so highly in our fellow-creatures, and  
almost to look upon as constituting the perfection  
of the human character." I beg leave to intro-  
duce to my readers an anecdote of a dog belong-  
ing to a friend of mine, but shall first, however,  
mention a story somewhat similar, related by an  
author of great respectability, regarding a dog  
belonging to a religious house in France. "At a  
convent in France twenty paupers were served  
with a dinner at a certain hour every day. A dog  
belonging to the convent nor did fail to be present  
at this regle, to receive the odds and ends which  
were now and then thrown to him. The guests,  
however, were poor and hungry, and of course  
not very wasteful; so that their pensioner did  
little more than scent the feast of which he would  
fain have partaken. The portions were served  
by a person at the ringing of the bell, and de-  
livered out by means of what, in religious houses  
is called a *tour*; which is a machine like the  
section of a cask, that, by turning round upon a  
pivot, exhibits whatever is placed on the concave  
side while it is revolving the person who moves it.  
One day, this dog, who had only received a few  
scraps, waited till the paupers were all gone, took  
the rope in his mouth and rang the bell. His  
stratagem succeeded. He repeated it next day  
with the same good fortune. At length the cook  
finding that twenty-one portions were given out  
instead of twenty, was determined to discover  
the trick: in doing which he had no great diffi-  
culty; for, lying *perdu* and noticing the paupers  
as they came for their different portions, and that  
there was no intruder except the dog, he began  
to suspect the truth; which he was confirmed in  
when he saw the animal wait with great delibera-  
tion till the visitors were all gone, and then pull  
the bell. The matter was related to the com-  
munity; and, to reward him for his ingenuity, he  
was permitted to ring the bell every day for his  
dinner, on which a mess of broken victuals was  
always afterwards served out to him."

The following is the anecdote I refer to. A  
friend of mine, Captain W. Aug. Thomson, R. N.,  
residing near Edinburgh, has a dog, both the  
parents of which were natives of Newfoundland.  
At the time I refer to (1836) he was, I believe,  
only two years old, but exhibited all the indica-  
tions of great muscular power, and singular  
agility. He was considerably larger at that  
time than many full-grown animals of the same  
breed, and I always imagined his eye pos-  
sessed a very peculiar degree of intelligence.—  
One day my friend walked down to the sea-beach  
to observe the military, whose barracks are in his  
neighbourhood, performing their evolutions, and  
took the dog with him. All went on very well  
till the cavalry commenced firing, but such a  
sound was too much for the astonished Bannock,  
as the dog is called. Being quite a puppy, like  
many other puppies, he was not very willing to  
stand fire, and he therefore considered the best  
thing he could do was to sound a retreat. Ac-  
cordingly, without casting a single glance to-  
wards his master, he bounded away homeward at  
full gallop, with his tail depressed, and in evi-  
dent terror. His master's residence is about a mile

from the beach, and it appeared the dog ran the  
whole way at full speed. But as the house is in  
a garden, and surrounded by lofty wall, having a  
gate which is always shut, and which communi-  
cates with the house only by a bell, it became a  
problem to our canine reasoner, how to get with-  
in the walls so as to be in safety. The gate he  
could not open, the wall was too high to leap;  
how then could he enter? He perceived at once  
his predicament, and no doubt thought of the  
bell he had so often seen his master pull, and the  
sounds of which were so often followed by the  
opening of the gate. Crossing the road, he ran  
up to a labouring man who was passing, and with  
all the gentleness he could assume, seized him  
by the wrist and held him, at the same time wag-  
ging his tail, and endeavoring to direct the man's  
attention to his situation. The man was at first,  
naturally enough, much terrified, but the perfect-  
ly gentle appearance of the animal prevented his  
fears from increasing. He therefore accompan-  
ied the dog across the road, and was led close up  
to the bell, which he at once perceived the ani-  
mal required him to pull; this having done, he  
was no longer detained a prisoner, and the gate  
being opened, he related, in astonishment to the  
servant, the singular conduct of the dog. This  
little story is entitled to the highest credit, not  
only on account of the source I derived it from,  
but because I myself have seen the dog, when de-  
siring of leaving the room, take his master by  
the wrist and lead him to the door in order to  
open it. All this I have been assured is solely  
the result of the dog's instinct, or rather, reason,  
as he never received any instruction. I trust  
that, although this anecdote has little direct  
reference to humanity in animals, I may be ex-  
cused for taking this opportunity of mentioning  
it.

From the Herkimer County Journal.

### CAUTION TO THE CURIOUS.

When you enter a printing office, be sure to  
gawk about and read all the *Manuscript* you can  
get your eye on. It's very polite—very; besides,  
who knows but that you may be able to detect  
some enormous villany, and crush it in the bud?  
Isn't this a free country? and what business have  
printers with privacy, and they are paid for pub-  
lishing the news?

2. Be sure to pick up some of the types in the  
case and examine them, especially if you have  
never seen any before. Types are not too good  
to be looked at are they? Throw them down ag-  
ain when you are done, into one of the boxes—  
no matter which. Printers should not have so  
many little boxes all of the same size if they paid  
hold of it—it was made to use. Pull the bar up:  
it's not such a mighty lever-power, after all—  
when there is no form on. There, let go; guess  
it will go back itself if those pesky springs are  
good for any thing. Slam! bang!!—Good gra-  
tious have I done any damage, mister?"

Yes, sir, you have probably put yourself to an  
expense of 10 or 20 dollars repairs, to pay for  
your curiosity!"

ANECDOTE. As the good Deacon A—, on a  
cold morning in January, was ridding by  
the house of his neighbor —, the latter was  
chopping wood and thrashing his hinds at his  
door. The usual salutations were exchanged,  
the severity of the weather briefly discussed, and  
the horseman made demonstrations of passing on,  
when his neighbor detained him with—

"Don't be in a hurry Deacon! wouldn't you  
like a glass of good old Jamaica this cold morn-  
ing?"

"Thank you kindly," said the old gentleman,  
at the same time beginning to dismount with all  
the deliberation becoming a deacon; "Don't care  
if I do."

"Ah, don't trouble yourself to get off, Deacon,"  
said the wag, "I merely asked for information;  
we haven't a drop of rum in the house!"

Exter News.

An owl was taken at sea about five hundred  
miles from land, by some of the crew of the ship  
Margaret, lately arrived at Liverpool.

ROBBERY.—The store of a Mr. Charles Le-  
gavour, watchmaker, of Lynn, Mass. was bro-  
ken open on the night of Dec. 5th. His show  
cases were stripped of every article of value,  
and an iron safe containing jewelry to the amount  
of \$300 was carried off. The papers of Mr.  
L. being found on the banks of the Sagus river  
or the safe which was found.

UNIVERSALISTS.—There are in the United  
States about five hundred Universalist preach-  
ers, and four hundred and sixty-two Meeting-  
houses, owned in whole or in part by that de-  
nominaton. Much the largest part of the de-  
nominaton are to be found in those States  
where there are free schools.

Queen Victoria, it is said, is in rather a  
weak state, and it is thought she will hardly re-  
cover. Her symptoms are decidedly of a  
matrimonial order. Prince Albert of Coburg  
has been called in as attending physician.

CHERRY.—One commission merchant in Phila-  
delphia has on hand, for sale, two hundred  
tons of cherries. They have excellent flavors  
and fine pictures in the Keystone State.

"O, P! he a bachelor," as the man said vot  
got broomstick out of doors by his father  
half.







[illegible][illegible]

that man would be required, who would escape before the means time to alter the law, should express an effort to be oppressive or inconsistent. The persons who are in command on whose business the change would immediately be operated are comparatively small, nor is it well-founded to effect would be in the least unjust or injurious to them.

In the payment of duties, which constitute by far the greater portion of the revenue, a very large proportion is derived from foreign countries, and the agents of foreign manufacturers, who sell the goods, and agents to them, generally, at auction, and after paying the duties out of the avails, remit the rest abroad in specie or its equivalent. That the amount of duties should, in such a manner, also be retained in specie, can hardly be made a matter of dispute. Our own importing merchants, particularly interested in obtaining specie, can enforce, which the measure in question will especially promote, but are, from the nature of their dealings, best able to know when specie will be needed, and to procure it with the least difficulty or sacrifice. Residing, too, not only universally in places where the revenue is received, but in the drafts issued by the Government for their disbursement, and concentrate, they have every opportunity to obtain and send it to the place of its application. It is for their interest, or, at least, for the benefit of the number of these drafts, and the facilities they meet with, as well as of the rapidity with which the public funds are drawn and disbursed, an amount may be formed from the fact that, of nearly twenty millions of dollars in specie, the Treasury receives during the present year, or a average of the last five years, the sum of \$1,000,000, not exceeding a million, and that of the fifteen millions received by the collector of New York alone during the present year, the average amount of specie by him, subject to draft during each week, has been less than half a million.

The ease and safety of the operations of the Treasury in supplying the public money, are promoted by the application of its own drafts to the public debt. The objection arising from the fact that these long outstanding drafts might be converted, and they are known to be convertible, and thus holding them any equivalent to specie, and in that way greatly lessen the amount actually required. Still less inconvenience will attend the requirement of specie in purchases of public lands. Such purchases, and such transactions made on speculation, are, in general, not made, and are rarely, reflected by the same person, and, it is a fact, that in one year and a half, during which the notes of sound banks, and of the banks of the State, more than a moiety of these payments have been voluntarily made in specie, being a larger proportion than would have been required in three years under the graduation proposal.

The objection to the proposition that none is better settled by experience, that the supply of the precious metals will always be found to be sufficient for the uses for which they are required. They abound in countries where another currency is allowed. In our own State, where small notes are excluded, gold and silver supply their place. When driven to their hiding places by such restrictions, a little treasure in the community, for the purpose of making a sufficient quantity for ordinary purposes. Postage stamps, for public debt, have been collected in England without any specie currency, even in States where a depreciated paper currency, even in 1847 years, and thus, with the aid of Treasury notes for a part of the time, was done without interruption, the receipts and disbursements of the Government are made in legal currency in the largest portion of the Union—and it is a departure from this rule, and it can now be ascertained, that it will be sure to attend with even is so difficult when bank notes are issued, it is found in specie.

Again, I cannot think that a series of objection would any way be raised to the receipt and payment of gold and silver in all public transactions, were it not for the application of a surplus in the Treasury might be made up by the sale of it from Government, and it is, in my opinion, difficult to perceive any inconvenience from occurring; but the authorities, as far as I have had opportunity to see, submitted to you in regard to the application in the public Treasury at any one time during the period embraced in the bill, and the little probability of a different state of the Treasury for at least a year, or even, as it is to render it unnecessary to dwell upon it, should the occurrence of such circumstances as to be apprehended injury from this source. As far as the subject is all its aspects, I cannot believe that any period will be more auspicious than the present, or the adoption of all measures in necessity to maintain the safety of our own engagements, and to aid in securing to the community that abundant supply of the precious metals which adds to the security of the property, and gives such increased stability to the currency.

In a country so commercial as ours, banks, and some form of paper money, always exist; but this drives only to render it the more incumbent on us, notwithstanding the discouragements of the past, to strive in our respective stations to mitigate the evils they produce; to take them as rapidly as the obligations of public faith and credit require; to guard against the accumulation of the community with regard to the immediate interest of the people; to check so far as may be, the influence of the present legislation, those temptations of interest and opportunity for their dangerous indulgence, which beset them on every side, and to confine them strictly in the performance of their paramount duty, that of aiding the operations of commerce, rather than consulting their own exclusive advantage. These and other salutary measures, it is believed, will be accomplished without the violation of any principle of the moral compact, the observance of which is indispensable to the existence, or interfering in any way with the useful and profitable employment of real capital.

Institutions so formed have existed and still exist elsewhere, giving to commercial intercourse all the necessary facilities, without inflicting or permitting the currency, to be the subject of speculation. This accomplishing their legitimate purposes, they have given the most guarantee of the community. Among the engagements in the bond will be the same as could not fail to afford a source of employment. The direct supervision of the banks belongs from the nature of our Government, to the State who authorizes them. It is to their Legislature that the people must

pressed to supervise. In 1847 it failed, equally with  
 others, in redeeming its notes, though the two years  
 allowed by its charter for that purpose had not expired.  
 The amount of money which remains to the present time,  
 outstanding, is, I believe, that having so fast a capital,  
 and strengthened by the aid of the revenues of the  
 Government, it possessed more than sufficient to enable it  
 to itself, by that circumstance, freed from the necessity of which  
 all banks require, its paramount object and inducement  
 were in the same—to make the most for its stockholders,  
 not to regulate the currency of the country. Nor  
 was it, as far as we are advised, ever found to be great  
 or more so elsewhere. The national character given  
 in the Bank of England, has not prevented excessive  
 fluctuations in the currency, and it proved unable to  
 keep off a suspension of specie payments, which lasted  
 for nearly a quarter of a century. And we may well  
 expect it to be otherwise? A national institution,  
 though deriving its charter from a different source than  
 the State banks, is yet constituted upon the same principles:  
 it is conducted by men equally exposed to tempta-  
 tions and dissuades, (made to the same disasters); with the  
 additional disadvantage, that its magnitude occasions an  
 extent of confusion and distress which the management  
 of smaller institutions could not produce. It can scarcely  
 be doubted that the recent suspension of the United  
 States Bank of Pennsylvania; of which the effects are  
 felt not in that State alone, but over half the Union—  
 its origin in a course of business commenced while  
 it was a national institution; and there is no good reason  
 for supposing that the same consequences would not have  
 followed, had it still derived its power from the General  
 Government. It is in vain, when we consider the conduct or  
 results of such enterprises, we do therefore, to pre-  
 serve the mass of paper credit and paper currency, with-  
 out checking their attendant evils and fluctuations. The  
 extent of power and the efficiency of organization which  
 we give to them, from being beneficial, are in practice per-  
 tively injurious. Their strength in the claim of depen-  
 dence through the United States, all parts more or less tally  
 to common disaster, and bind every one more firmly to-  
 gether in the first instance, to those of our more free cities,  
 and, in the end, to a foreign power. In a word, I do  
 not but believe that, with the full understanding of the  
 operations of our banking system which experience has  
 afforded, the establishment is not less opposed to the  
 creation of a National currency, than to the connection with  
 currency and commerce, than for those connected with  
 the fiscal operations of the Government.

Yet the commerce and currency of the country are  
 suffering evils from the operations of the State banks  
 which can have not and ought not to be overlooked. By their  
 means, we have been flooded with a depreciated paper,  
 the circulation of which was evidently the design of the framers of the  
 Constitution to prevent, when they required Congress  
 to "coin money and regulate the value of foreign coins,  
 and when they forbade the State to coin money, emit  
 bills of credit, make any thing but gold and silver  
 legal tender in payment of debts." If they did not guard  
 against the present state of things, it was be-  
 lieved that they could not have anticipated that the few banks  
 then existing were to swell to an extent which would ex-  
 pel to so great an extent the gold and silver, for which  
 they had provided, from the circulation, and to fill them  
 with a currency that defeats the objects they

The remedy for this must chiefly rest with the  
 States from whose legislation it has sprung. No  
 good that might accrue in a particular case from  
 the exercise of powers, not obviously conferred  
 on the General Government, would authorize its  
 interference, or justify a course and that might  
 in the slightest degree, increase, at the expense  
 of the States, the power of the Federal authori-  
 ties—nor do I doubt that the States will apply the  
 remedy. Within the last few years, events have  
 appealed to them too strongly to be disregarded.  
 They have seen that the Constitution, theoretically  
 adhered to, is subverted in practice; that while  
 on the statute books there is no legal tender but  
 gold and silver, no law impairing the obligations  
 of contracts, yet that, in point of fact, the privi-  
 leges conferred on banking corporations have  
 rendered their notes the currency of the country;  
 that the obligations imposed by these notes are  
 violated under the impulses of interest or con-  
 venience; and that the number and power of the  
 persons connected with these corporations, or  
 persons under their influence, give them a fearful  
 weight when their interest is in opposition  
 to the spirit of the Constitution and laws. To the  
 people it is immaterial whether these results are  
 introduced by open violations of the letter, or by  
 the workings of a system of which the result is the  
 same. An inflexible execution even of the exist-  
 ing statutes of most of the States, would redress  
 many evils now endured; would effectually show  
 the banks the dangers of mismanagement which im-  
 munity encourages them to repeat; and would  
 teach all corporations the useful lesson that they  
 are the subjects of the law and the servants of the  
 people. What is still wanting to effect these ob-  
 jects must be sought in addition to legislation; or,  
 if that be inadequate, in such further constitu-  
 tional grants or restrictions as may bring us back in-  
 to the path from which we have so widely wander-  
 ed.

In the meantime, it is the duty of the General  
 Government to co-operate with the States, by a  
 wise exercise of its constitutional powers, and  
 the enforcement of its existing laws. The extent  
 to which it may do so by further enactments, I  
 have already adverted to, and the wisdom of Con-  
 gress may yet enlarge them. But, above all, it  
 is incumbent upon us to hold erect the principles  
 of morality and law, constantly exercising our

otherwise have secured. It is not by the increase of this debt that relief is to be sought, but in its diminution. Upon this point, there is, I am happy to say, hope before us; not so much in the return of confidence abroad, which will enable the States to borrow more money, as in the change of public feeling at home, which prompts our people to pause in their career, and think of the means by which debts are to be paid before they are contracted. If we would escape embarrassment, public and private, we must cease to run in debt, except for objects of necessity, or such as will yield a certain return. Let the faith of the States, corporations, and individuals already pledged, be kept with the most punctilious regard. It is due to our national character, as well as to justice, that this should on the part of each be a fixed principle of conduct. But it behoves us all to be more chary in pledging hereafter. By ceasing to run in debt, and applying the surplus of our crops and incomes to the discharge of existing obligations, buying and selling more, and managing all affairs public and private, with strict economy and frugality, we shall see our country soon recover from a temporary depression, arising not from natural and permanent causes, but from those I have enumerated, and advance with renewed vigor in her career of prosperity.

Fortunately for us, at this moment, when the balance of trade is greatly against us, and the difficulty of meeting it enhanced by the disturbed state of our money affairs, the bounties of Providence have come to relieve us from the consequences of past errors. A faithful application of the last season will afford partial relief for the present, and perseverance in the same course will, in due season, accomplish the rest. We have had full experience, in three parts, of the extraordinary results which can, in this respect, be wrought about in a short period, by the united and well directed efforts of a community like ours. Our surplus profits, the energy and industry of our population, and the wonderful advantages which Providence has bestowed upon our country, in its climate, its various productions, indispensable to other nations, will, in time, afford abundant means to perfect the most useful of our objects, for which the States have been languishing themselves of late in embarrassment and debt, without imposing on ourselves or our children such fearful burdens.

But let it be indelibly engraved on our minds that relief is not to be found in expedients. Intemperance cannot be lessened by borrowing more money, or by changing the form of the debt. The balance of trade is not to be turned in our favor by creating new demands upon us abroad. Our currency cannot be improved by the creation of new banks, or more issues from such now on exist. Although these devices sometimes appear to give temporary relief, they most invariably aggravate the evil in the end. It is only by retrenchment and reform, by curbing public & private expenditures, by paying our debts, and by reforming our banking system, that we are to expect effectual relief, security for the future, and an enduring prosperity. In supporting the institutions and policy of the General Government so as to promote, so far as it can, limited power these important ends, you rely on my most cordial co-operation.

That there should have been, in the progress of recent events, doubts in many quarters, and some a heated opposition to every change, cannot surprise us. Doubts are properly attendant on all reform; and it is peculiarly in the nature of such abuses as we are now encountering, to seek to perpetuate their power by means of influence they have been permitted to acquire. It is their result, if not their object, to gain for a few an ascendancy over the many, by securing to them a monopoly of the currency, the medium through which most of the wants of mankind are supplied—to produce throughout society a chain of dependence which leads all classes to look to privileged associations for the means of subsistence and extravagance,—to nourish, in preference to the many virtues that give dignity to human nature, a craving desire for luxurious enjoyment and sudden wealth, which renders those who seek their dependent on those who supply them—to substitute for Republican simplicity and economical habits a sickly appetite for effeminate indulgence, and an imitation that reckless extravagance which impoverished & enslaved the industrious people of foreign lands; and at last, to fix upon us, instead of equal political rights, the acquisition of power which was alike the object and supposed reward of our Revolutionary struggle, a system of exclusive privileges conferred by partial legislation, to remove the influences which had thus gradually grown up among us—to deprive them of their deceptive advantages—to oppose the force which

highly honored, such measures as appear to be conducive to their prosperity—and anxious to submit to their fullest consideration the grounds on which my opinions are formed, I have on all, as on preceding occasions, freely offered my views on these points of domestic policy that, at the present time, most prominently require the action of the Government. I know that they will receive from Congress that full and free consideration which the importance of the subjects merit and I shall cheerfully and readily co-operate with you in every measure that will tend to promote the welfare of the Union.

M. VAN BUREN.

DECEMBER 2, 1839.

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**OXFORD DEMOCRAT.**

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PARIS, DECEMBER 31, 1839.

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.**

With this number of the Democrat we present our address to the President's Message. Although delayed by various causes a month beyond the usual time, we trust it will be received with as much relish as we read with as much avidity as though it had been delivered a month earlier. From a cursory glance at the leading topics it strikes us very favorably, and we are at it will receive a general perusal.

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**CONGRESS.**

Congress does not appear to have done much since the election of Speaker but quarrel about the contest—members from New Jersey. Some three or four weeks were spent in a useless discussion of this question, after which they proceeded to the election of a Speaker. Hugh A. Garland, the old Clerk, was elected the first ballot by a majority of five. Notwithstanding the abuse heaped upon him by the Federal members, his course in regard to the late troubles has been decisively sustained. He is an honest, upright man, and his election is a bitter pill to the opposition.

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Correspondence of the N. Y. Evening Post.

WASHINGTON CITY, Dec. 17.

Mr. Robert M. T. Hunter, of Virginia, was yesterday elected Speaker of the House of Representatives. As he may, and probably will be regarded as a whig, by the whigs, it may not be improper to state what he is, and that to in his own words.

"I am," said Mr. Hunter, to a friend and in presence, last Friday evening, at a time that did not dream of being elected Speaker, or of going to the office of Chairman of a committee, a states rights man, a friend and an advocate of the treasury scheme; I owe no allegiance to either of the two political parties in the House; I am independent, and in politics, am precisely where Mr. Calhoun is to be found."

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**Honor to the Brave—General Jackson.**—At a late meeting of the people at Mississippi, without the sanction of party, held at Jackson on the 25th of November ultimo, a committee of twenty-five persons was appointed to invite General Andrew Jackson to visit the State as its guest, at such a time in the month of January as would suit his convenience.—*Eastern Argus.*

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**AGENTS' NOTICE.**

THE subscribers, having taken an assignment of all the property of WILLIAM HARRIS, of Turner in the County of Oxford, Trader, in trust for the benefit of his creditors as shall become parties to said assignment within three months from the 15th of December next, hereby give public notice of the same, that said creditors may give themselves accordingly.

ISAAC CROSS,  
CUSHING PHILLIPS, } Agents.

Turner, Dec. 21st, 1839. 3w10

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**Commissioners' Notice.**

THE subscribers having been appointed by the Judge of Probate for the County of Oxford, to receive and examine the claims of the creditors of ALDEN E. TURNER, late of Turner, deceased, whose estate is represented insolvent, give notice that six months from the day of November last are allowed said creditors to bring in and prove their claims, and that we will attend to that service at the dwelling house of Thomas M. Cole, Esq. in said Turner, on the third Mondays of January, March, and May next, from one till five of the clock P. M. on each of said days.

THOMAS MERRILL, } Commissioners.  
NATHAN COLE, }

Turner, Oct. 30th, 1839. 3w10

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**Sherriff's Sale.**

OXFORD, ss.—Taken on Execution and will be sold at public Auction, on Saturday the twenty-first day of January next, at one o'clock P. M. at the house of Charles A. Kimball in Randolph lot and company, the right in equity of redemption which MOSES W. ANDOVER, of Andover in said County, has or had in the day of August, A. D. 1838, (when the same was taken on the original writ) in and to his homestead

OXFORD DEMOCRAT

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### ASSIGNEES' NOTICE.

such of his creditors as shall become parties to said  
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ISAAC GROSS.  
CUSHING PHILLIPS. } Assignees.

**Commissioners' Notice.**  
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**Sheriff's Sale.**  
 YEARLY - Taken on Execution -

of Charles A. Kimball in Randolph in said county,  
to right in equity of said parties, which 118615.

...in and to his home, and situated in Andover in said county, and being the

Amford, Dec. 13th, 1839. 3w19

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